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Message Text

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67
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 MBFR-03 RSR-01

/168 W

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R 271713 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 803
INFO AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 4953

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: OVIP, UK, MT
SUBJECT: MINTOFF VISIT TO UK, MAY 5

1. SUMMARY: DURING FORTHCOMING VISIT BY MINTOFF,
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BRITISH INTEND TO TAKE HIM TO TASK OVER MALTESE REFUSAL

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TO PAY AMOUNTS DUE ON UK LOANS. THIS ISSUE ASIDE, BRITISH EXPECT SUBSTANTIVE TALKS TO BE BRIEF, GENERALIZED, AND AMICABLE. THEY ARE RELAXED ABOUT MIZZI' S LETTER OF APRIL 21. END SUMMARY

2. FCO (GOODISON, SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT), GAVE US PREVIEW TODAY OF FORTHCOMING MINTOFF VISIT. MINTOFF IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN LONDON SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 5, FROM PARIS, AND DEPART AGAIN THAT SAME EVENING. HE WILL LUNCH PRIVATEDLY, PRESUMABLY WITH HIS DAUGHTER WHO LIVES HERE, AND IN THE AFTERNOON ATTEND SOCCER CUP FINALS. FROM 6 TO 8 PM HE WILL CONFER WITH SIR ALEC AND VARIOUS FCO AND MOD OFFICIALS AT SIR ALEC' S COUNTRY HOME, AFTER WHICH SIR ALEC WILL GIVE A DINNER FOR TWELVE IN MINTOFF' S HONOR.

3. THESE EVENING MEETINGS WILL PROVIDE THE ONLY OPPORTUNITY FOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS. MINTOFF HAS ASKED FOR AN OPEN AGENDA AND FCO WILL PROVIDE SIR ALEC WITH BRIEFING PAPERS ON A WIDE RANGE OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES THAT MINTOFF MAY RAISE, E. G., CSCE, MBFR, EC.

4. BRITISH INTEND TO PRESS MINTOFF HARD OVER MALTESE REFUSAL TO PAY AMOUNTS DUE ON BRITISH LOANS (300,000 POUNDS EACH FOR LAST YEAR AND THIS), AND EXPECT A " SHARP, NASTY EXCHANGE" BUT NO GIVE IN MINTOFF' S POSITION. THEY ANTICIPATE TOO THAT HE WILL RENEW REQUEST FOR PROMISES OF NEW TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, A REQUEST THEY WILL REFUSE SO LONG AS MALTA REMAINS IN DEFAULT ON THE LOANS.

5. THESE ISSUES ASIDE, BRITISH EXPECT TALKS TO PROCEED AMICABLY, IN A MANNER BEFITTING " TWO COMMONWEALTH STATEMEN DISCUSSING WORLD PROBLEMS OF MUTUAL INTEREST."

6. BRITISH DO NOT INTEND TO RAISE SUBJECT OF MIZZI' S LETTER OF APRIL 21 NOR DO THEY EXPECT MINTOFF TO.
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THEY REMAIN RELAXED ABOUT UK- MALTA AGREEMENT AND RECKON THAT WE SHALL JUST HAVE TO LIVE WITH PERIODIC GRUMBLINGS AND THREATS FROM MALTESE AND DEAL WITH SPECIFIC PROBLEMS AS THEY COME UP.

7. WHEN WE ASKED GOODISON WHAT HE THOUGHT MINTOFF HOPED TO GAIN BY HIS TOUR OF WEST EUROPEAN CAPITALS, GOODISON REPLIED SIMPLY " MORE MONEY -- AND STATUS."

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Disposition Remarks:
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Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980204
Subject: MINTOFF VISIT TO UK, MAY 5
TAGS: OVIP, MT, UK
To: ANKARA
ATHENS
BONN
BRUSSELS
COPENHAGEN
EUR
NATO BRUSSELS

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SECSTATE WASHDC
VALLETTA
Type: TE
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